

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1    1.    An audio content interface system for providing audio content stored on  
2    a data communications network to an end-user over a telecommunications  
3    network, the audio content interface system communicatively connected to the  
4    data communications network and the telecommunications network,  
5    comprising:  
6        a media delivery interface module operable to interface with the end-  
7    user over the telecommunications network, accept a request for audio content  
8    from the end-user, access audio content over the data communications  
9    network, and provide the audio content to the end-user over the  
10    telecommunications network; and  
11        a content address translation module operable to provide an address  
12    mapping between an address of audio content stored on the data  
13    communications network and an address of the end-user on the  
14    telecommunications network.
- 1    2.    The system of claim 1, wherein the audio content is provided to the end-  
2    user over a voice connection of the telecommunications network.

1     3.     The system of claim 2, wherein the media delivery interface module is  
2     further operable to perform the steps of:  
3             receiving a telephone call from the end-user;  
4             presenting a user interface to the end-user;  
5             accepting a selection of audio content from the end-user; and  
6             providing the selected audio content to the end user.

1     4.     The system of claim 3, wherein the step of presenting a user interface to  
2     the end-user comprises the step of:  
3             presenting a different user interface, audio content selections, and/or  
4     audio content to the end-user based on a telephone number dialed by the end-  
5     user to place the telephone call.

1     5.     The system of claim 4, wherein the step of providing the selected audio  
2     content to the end user comprises the steps of:  
3             requesting the selected audio content over the data communications  
4     network from a source of audio content using an indicator of a location of the  
5     audio content;

6           receiving over the data communications network the requested audio  
7   content; and  
8           providing the requested audio content to the end-user over the  
9   telecommunications network.

1   6.    The system of claim 5, wherein there are a plurality of end-users  
2   requesting the same audio content and the step of providing the selected audio  
3   content to the end-user comprises the step of:

4           providing the audio content to all end-users that requested the audio  
5   content.

1   7.    The system of claim 6, wherein the requested audio content is live audio  
2   content and the step of providing the audio content to all end-users that  
3   requested the audio content comprises the step of:

4           providing the audio content to an end-user from a point in the audio  
5   content at which the end-user requested the audio content.

1 8. The system of claim 6, wherein the requested audio content is recorded  
2 audio content and the step of providing the audio content to all end-users that  
3 requested the audio content comprises the steps of:

4 providing the audio content to an end-user from a point in the audio  
5 content at which the end-user requested the audio content; and

6 repeating providing the audio content from the start of the audio  
7 content.

1 9. The system of claim 6, wherein the requested audio content is recorded  
2 audio content and the step of providing the audio content to all end-users that  
3 requested the audio content comprises the step of:

4 providing the audio content from the start of the audio content for each  
5 end-user that requests the audio content.

1 10. The system of claim 3, wherein the media delivery interface module is  
2 further operable to perform the step of:

3 controlling access and/or input to the media delivery interface module.

1 11. The system of claim 10, wherein the step of controlling access and/or  
2 input to the media delivery interface module comprises at least one of:  
3 providing password control to establish origination connections;  
4 metering to control, limit, and/or bill based on a length or size of the  
5 audio content, a number of simultaneous accesses to the audio content, a  
6 number of total accesses to the audio content, a time of access to the audio  
7 content, and/or periodic charges;  
8 limiting input sources to hardwired connections;  
9 accept connection only from designated sources;  
10 controlling which pieces of content are available based on an access  
11 method, login, and/or interconnect;  
12 importing an external permissions file;  
13 providing a sample audio content, then requiring billing information to  
14 continue providing audio content;  
15 blocking specific calling numbers automatically after sample audio  
16 content has been provided, until payment is made; and  
17 blocking specific calling numbers permanently.

1 12. The system of claim 11, wherein the media delivery interface module is  
2 further operable to perform the step of:  
3 providing advertising content to the end-user.

1 13. The system of claim 12, wherein the step of providing advertising  
2 content to the end-user comprises at least one of:  
3 providing advertising content by class of service;  
4 providing advertising content based on selected audio content;  
5 providing advertising content before and/or after providing selected  
6 audio content; and  
7 providing advertising content based on a timed advertising interval.

1 14. The system of claim 3, wherein the media delivery interface module is  
2 further operable to perform the step of:  
3 requesting the selected audio content from a Web server.

1 15. The system of claim 14, wherein the step of the requesting the selected  
2 audio content from a Web server comprises the step of:

3            requesting the selected audio content from the Web server using a  
4            uniform resource locator.

1    16.    The system of claim 15, wherein the data communications network is  
2    the Internet.

1    17.    The system of claim 3, wherein the media delivery interface module is  
2    further operable to perform the step of:  
3            requesting the selected audio content from an audio content server.

1    18.    The system of claim 17, wherein the step of the requesting the selected  
2    audio content from the audio content server comprises the step of:  
3            requesting the selected audio content from the audio content server  
4            using a uniform resource locator.

1    19.    The system of claim 18, wherein the data communications network is  
2    the Internet.

1    20.    In an audio content interface system for providing audio content stored  
2    on a data communications network to an end-user over a telecommunications  
3    network, the audio content interface system communicatively connected to the  
4    data communications network and the telecommunications network, a method  
5    for providing audio content comprising the steps of:  
6            accepting a request for audio content from the end-user;  
7            accessing audio content over the data communications network;  
8            providing the audio content to the end-user over the telecommunications  
9    network; and  
10          providing an address mapping between an address of audio content  
11    stored on the data communications network and an address of the end-user on  
12    the telecommunications network.

1    21.    The method of claim 20, wherein the audio content is provided to the  
2    end-user over a voice connection of the telecommunications network.

1    22.    The method of claim 21, wherein the step of accepting a request for  
2    audio content from the end-user comprises the steps of:  
3            receiving a telephone call from the end-user;



4           presenting a user interface to the end-user; and  
5           accepting a selection of audio content from the end-user.

1   23.    The method of claim 22, wherein the step of providing the audio content  
2   to the end-user over the telecommunications network comprises the step of:  
3           providing the selected audio content to the end user.

1   24.    The method of claim 23, wherein the step of presenting a user interface  
2   to the end-user comprises the step of:  
3           presenting a different user interface, audio content selections, and/or  
4   audio content to the end-user based on a telephone number dialed by the end-  
5   user to place the telephone call.

1   25.    The method of claim 24, wherein the step of providing the selected  
2   audio content to the end user comprises the steps of:  
3           requesting the selected audio content over the data communications  
4   network from a source of audio content using an indicator of a location of the  
5   audio content;

6 receiving over the data communications network the requested audio  
7 content; and  
8 providing the requested audio content to the end-user over the  
9 telecommunications network.

1 26. The method of claim 25, wherein there are a plurality of end-users  
2 requesting the same audio content and the step of providing the selected audio  
3 content to the end-user comprises the step of:  
4 providing the audio content to all end-users that requested the audio  
5 content.

1 27. The method of claim 26, wherein the requested audio content is live  
2 audio content and the step of providing the audio content to all end-users that  
3 requested the audio content comprises the step of:  
4 providing the audio content to an end-user from a point in the audio  
5 content at which the end-user requested the audio content.

1 28. The method of claim 26, wherein the requested audio content is  
2 recorded audio content and the step of providing the audio content to all end-  
3 users that requested the audio content comprises the steps of:

4 providing the audio content to an end-user from a point in the audio  
5 content at which the end-user requested the audio content; and

6 repeating providing the audio content from the start of the audio  
7 content.

1 29. The method of claim 26, wherein the requested audio content is  
2 recorded audio content and the step of providing the audio content to all end-  
3 users that requested the audio content comprises the step of:

4 providing the audio content from the start of the audio content for each  
5 end-user that requests the audio content.

1 30. The method of claim 23, further comprising the step of:

2 controlling access and/or input to the media delivery interface module.

1 31. The method of claim 30, wherein the step of controlling access and/or  
2 input to the media delivery interface module comprises at least one of:

3           providing password control to establish origination connections;  
4           metering to control, limit, and/or bill based on a length or size of the  
5 audio content, a number of simultaneous accesses to the audio content, a  
6 number of total accesses to the audio content, a time of access to the audio  
7 content, and/or periodic charges;  
8           limiting input sources to hardwired connections;  
9           accept connection only from designated sources;  
10          controlling which pieces of content are available based on an access  
11 method, login, and/or interconnect;  
12          importing an external permissions file;  
13          providing a sample audio content, then requiring billing information to  
14 continue providing audio content;  
15          blocking specific calling numbers automatically after sample audio  
16 content has been provided, until payment is made; and  
17          blocking specific calling numbers permanently.

1   32.   The method of claim 31, further comprising the step of:  
2          providing advertising content to the end-user.

1 33. The method of claim 32, wherein the step of providing advertising  
2 content to the end-user comprises at least one of:  
3 providing advertising content by class of service;  
4 providing advertising content based on selected audio content;  
5 providing advertising content before and/or after providing selected  
6 audio content; and  
7 providing advertising content based on a timed advertising interval.

1 34. The method of claim 22, wherein the media delivery interface module is  
2 further operable to perform the step of:  
3 requesting the selected audio content from a Web server.

1 35. The method of claim 34, wherein the step of the requesting the selected  
2 audio content from a Web server comprises the step of:  
3 requesting the selected audio content from the Web server using a  
4 uniform resource locator.

1 36. The method of claim 35, wherein the data communications network is  
2 the Internet.

1 37. The method of claim 22, wherein the media delivery interface module is  
2 further operable to perform the step of:  
3 requesting the selected audio content from an audio content server.

1 38. The method of claim 37, wherein the step of the requesting the selected  
2 audio content from the audio content server comprises the step of:  
3 requesting the selected audio content from the audio content server  
4 using a uniform resource locator.

1 39. The method of claim 38, wherein the data communications network is  
2 the Internet.

1 40. A computer program product for an audio content interface system for  
2 providing audio content stored on a data communications network to an end-  
3 user over a telecommunications network, the audio content interface system  
4 communicatively connected to the data communications network and the  
5 telecommunications network, the computer program product for performing a  
6 workflow process in an electronic commerce system, comprising a computer

7 readable medium and computer program instructions, recorded on the  
8 computer readable medium, executable by a processor, for performing the  
9 steps of:

- 10       accepting a request for audio content from the end-user;
- 11       accessing audio content over the data communications network;
- 12       providing the audio content to the end-user over the telecommunications  
13 network; and
- 14       providing an address mapping between an address of audio content  
15 stored on the data communications network and an address of the end-user on  
16 the telecommunications network.

1 41. The computer program product of claim 40, wherein the audio content  
2 is provided to the end-user over a voice connection of the telecommunications  
3 network.

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1 42. The computer program product of claim 41, wherein the step of  
2 accepting a request for audio content from the end-user comprises the steps of:  
3       receiving a telephone call from the end-user;

4           presenting a user interface to the end-user; and  
5           accepting a selection of audio content from the end-user.

1   43.   The computer program product of claim 42, wherein the step of  
2   providing the audio content to the end-user over the telecommunications  
3   network comprises the step of:

4           providing the selected audio content to the end user.

1   44.   The computer program product of claim 43, wherein the step of  
2   presenting a user interface to the end-user comprises the step of:

3           presenting a different user interface, audio content selections, and/or  
4   audio content to the end-user based on a telephone number dialed by the end-  
5   user to place the telephone call.

1   45.   The computer program product of claim 44, wherein the step of  
2   providing the selected audio content to the end user comprises the steps of:

3           requesting the selected audio content over the data communications  
4   network from a source of audio content using an indicator of a location of the  
5   audio content;



6 receiving over the data communications network the requested audio  
7 content; and  
8 providing the requested audio content to the end-user over the  
9 telecommunications network.

1 46. The computer program product of claim 45, wherein there are a  
2 plurality of end-users requesting the same audio content and the step of  
3 providing the selected audio content to the end-user comprises the step of:  
4 providing the audio content to all end-users that requested the audio  
5 content.

1 47. The computer program product of claim 46, wherein the requested audio  
2 content is live audio content and the step of providing the audio content to all  
3 end-users that requested the audio content comprises the step of:  
4 providing the audio content to an end-user from a point in the audio  
5 content at which the end-user requested the audio content.

1 48. The computer program product of claim 46, wherein the requested audio  
2 content is recorded audio content and the step of providing the audio content to  
3 all end-users that requested the audio content comprises the steps of:  
4 providing the audio content to an end-user from a point in the audio  
5 content at which the end-user requested the audio content; and  
6 repeating providing the audio content from the start of the audio  
7 content.

1 49. The computer program product of claim 46, wherein the requested audio  
2 content is recorded audio content and the step of providing the audio content to  
3 all end-users that requested the audio content comprises the step of:  
4 providing the audio content from the start of the audio content for each  
5 end-user that requests the audio content.

1 50. The computer program product of claim 43, further comprising the step  
2 of:  
3 controlling access and/or input to the media delivery interface module.

1 51. The computer program product of claim 50, wherein the step of  
2 controlling access and/or input to the media delivery interface module  
3 comprises at least one of:  
4 providing password control to establish origination connections;  
5 metering to control, limit, and/or bill based on a length or size of the  
6 audio content, a number of simultaneous accesses to the audio content, a  
7 number of total accesses to the audio content, a time of access to the audio  
8 content, and/or periodic charges;  
9 limiting input sources to hardwired connections;  
10 accept connection only from designated sources;  
11 controlling which pieces of content are available based on an access  
12 method, login, and/or interconnect;  
13 importing an external permissions file;  
14 providing a sample audio content, then requiring billing information to  
15 continue providing audio content;  
16 blocking specific calling numbers automatically after sample audio  
17 content has been provided, until payment is made; and  
18 blocking specific calling numbers permanently.

1 52. The computer program product of claim 51, further comprising the step  
2 of:  
3 providing advertising content to the end-user.

1 53. The computer program product of claim 52, wherein the step of  
2 providing advertising content to the end-user comprises at least one of:  
3 providing advertising content by class of service;  
4 providing advertising content based on selected audio content;  
5 providing advertising content before and/or after providing selected  
6 audio content; and  
7 providing advertising content based on a timed advertising interval.

1 54. The computer program product of claim 42, wherein the media delivery  
2 interface module is further operable to perform the step of:  
3 requesting the selected audio content from a Web server.

1 55. The computer program product of claim 54, wherein the step of the  
2 requesting the selected audio content from a Web server comprises the step of:

3            requesting the selected audio content from the Web server using a  
4   uniform resource locator.

1   56.   The computer program product of claim 55, wherein the data  
2   communications network is the Internet.

1   57.   The computer program product of claim 42, wherein the media delivery  
2   interface module is further operable to perform the step of:  
3            requesting the selected audio content from an audio content server.

1   58.   The computer program product of claim 57, wherein the step of the  
2   requesting the selected audio content from the audio content server comprises  
3   the step of:  
4            requesting the selected audio content from the audio content server  
5   using a uniform resource locator.

1   59.   The computer program product of claim 58, wherein the data  
2   communications network is the Internet.